

CLAIMS

1 1. A method in a computer system for identifying a sequence of routines
2 for processing data, the computer system having a plurality of routines, each routine for
3 inputting data of an input type and outputting data of an output type, the method comprising:
4 providing pairs of alias types, each pair having an output type and input type
5 wherein data of the output type can be processed by a routine for inputting data with the
6 input type;

7 receiving data of a source type that is to be converted to a destination type;
8 identifying a sequence of routines such that a first routine in the sequence
9 inputs data of the source type or of an alias type of the source type as indicated by the
10 provided pairs of alias types, such that a last routine in the sequence outputs data of the
11 destination type, and such that each intermediate routine in the sequence inputs data of the
12 output type of the previous routine in the sequence or data of an alias type of the output type
13 of the previous routine in the sequence as indicated by the provide pairs of alias types.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying of the sequence of
2 routines includes determining whether the sequence of routines for converting data of the
3 source data type to the destination data type has already been identified and using the
4 identified sequence.

1 3. The method of claim 1 including storing an indication of the identified
2 sequence of routines in a cache.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the identifying includes retrieving from
2 the cache the indication of the identified sequence.

1 5. A method in a computer system for routing data of an output type to a
2 target, the method comprising:

3 providing an identifier of a path for routing data of the output type to the target;
 4 providing an indication to route data of the output type to the target;
 5 receiving data of the output type;
 6 using the output type of the received data to retrieve the provided indication to
 7 route data of that output type to the target;
 8 using the target of the retrieved indication to retrieving the provided path
 9 identifier for that target; and
 10 routing data in accordance with the retrieved path.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the providing an identifier of a path
 2 includes receiving the identifier of the path from another computer system.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the providing of the indication to route
 2 data of the output type to the target includes analyzing the received data to identify the target.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the data is voice data and the analyzing
 2 includes identifying an intended recipient of the voice data.

1 9. The method of claim 5 wherein the providing of the indication to route
 2 data of the output type to the target include receiving a selection of the output type and the
 3 target from a user.

1 10. The method of claim 5 wherein the providing of the indication to route
 2 data of the output type to the target includes displaying a list of output types and a list of
 3 possible targets to a user.

1 11. A method in a computer system for determining a sequence of routines
 2 for converting data of a source type to a target type, the method comprising:

3 providing a plurality of routines, each routine having an input type and an
4 output type; and

5 identifying one or more routines of the sequence such that the output type of
6 each routine in the sequence is compatible with the input type of the next routine in the
7 sequence and wherein the input type of the first routine in the sequence is compatible with
8 the source type and wherein the input type of the last routine in the sequence is compatible
9 with the output type.

1 12. The method of claim 11 including caching an indication of the identified
2 routines and when subsequently determining a sequence, checking the cache.

1 13. The method of claim 12 including priming the cache with an indication
2 of a sequence of routines so that the identifying can be bypassed.

1 14. A computer system for processing data, comprising:
2 a set of routines for processing data in an input type into an output type;
3 a searching component that receives an indication of a source type and that
4 identifies a sequence of routines for processing the data into a target type;
5 a routing component that receives identifications of sequences of routines for
6 routing data in a source type to a target; and
7 a processing component that receives an indication of a source type and selects
8 an identified sequence of routine for processing data of the source type.

1 15. The computer system of claim 14 wherein multiple sequences are
2 selected for a source type.

1 16. The computer system of claim 14 wherein the routing component
2 includes receiving target component that receives the identifications of sequences.

1 17. The computer system of claim 14 wherein the routing component
2 includes a user interface for specifying that data of a certain source type is to be routed to a
3 target.

1 18. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the target is a routine.



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